

In today's Jordan Times... Cholera is not endemic: Page 2 Food of Ramadan: Page 3 Population policy for Jordan: Page 4 Israeli arms to Iran: Page 5 IEC debates spending priorities: Page 6 Pessimistic view on baseball strike: Page 7 Poland braces up for trouble: Page 8

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
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Today's Weather  
It will be hot, with northwesterly light to moderate winds. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Overnight	Daytime
Low	High
20	34
28	42
23	40
21	39

Amman 34, Aqaba 42. Sunset tonight: 6:38 p.m. Sunrise tomorrow: 4:47 a.m.

June 6, Number 1719 AMMAN, MONDAY JULY 27, 1981 — RAMADAN 26, 1401 Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

## Queen hands over housing units to Petra bedouins

AMMAN, July 26 (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor today handed ownership deeds of 52 housing units to members of the Bedouin tribe at Al Hay village of Wadi Musa in the Ma'an governorate. The housing project, built on a 2892-square metre tract, cost JD 148,500. The project was carried out at the directives of His Majesty King Hussein upon a recommendation of the Queen who paid a visit to the area two years ago, according to Mr. Hassan Al Momani, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the environment. At the ceremony, Queen Noor announced that she will be making a donation for the construction of a mosque for the housing estate which has been named Noor Estate. Speaking at the ceremony was a member of the Budouil tribe who expressed the local inhabitants' appreciation and gratitude to Their Majesty for initiating and patronising the project and renewed their allegiance to the Royal Hashemite family. Following the ceremony the Queen paid visits to the various sections of the estate and instructed officials to speed up the process of handing the units with postal, electric and health services. The ceremony was also attended by Minister of Interior Suleiman Al Nayef and as well as the governor of Ma'an and other local officials.



Her Majesty Queen Noor hands over ownership deeds to a Budouil man at a ceremony in Al Hay village near Wadi Musa Sunday. Her Majesty's right are Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hassan Al Momani and Housing Corporation Director Rashedah Nabulsi. (Petra photo)

## Soviet envoy meets Badran, Ibrahim



Prime Minister Mudar Badran confers with Soviet aide Oleg Grinevsky (left) Sunday (Petra photo)

AMMAN, July 26 (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran conferred at his office today with the visiting chief of the Near Eastern Countries' Department at the Soviet foreign ministry, Mr. Oleg Grinevsky. They reviewed Middle East developments in general and Israel's acts of aggression, its policy of establishing settlements on occupied Arab lands and its infringements of holy places. Mr. Ibrahim stressed the urgent need for a just and comprehensive peace in the region in accordance with U.N. resolutions and within the framework of the Soviet call for holding an international conference aimed at reaching an overall solution. The two officials also reviewed the current situation in Lebanon in light of the recent Israeli attacks on the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanese territory.

## Israel hopes to mend fences with U.S. Lebanese ceasefire holds as PLO groups squabble

BEIRUT, July 26 (R) — The shaky ceasefire in South Lebanon appeared to be holding today while disagreements erupted among Palestinian groups about whether to carry on shelling Israel.

A spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) strongly criticised one of the groups, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), for deciding not to respect the ceasefire. The Libya-backed PFLP-GC claimed responsibility last night for the attacks which continued during the 24 hours after the ceasefire agreement was announced in occupied Jerusalem on Friday. Western diplomats said it was too early to say whether the PFLP-GC was going to sabotage the truce. The radical PFLP-GC is one of eight divergent groups loosely linked in the PLO. The PLO spokesman accused it of irresponsibility and tampering with the fate of Lebanese and Palestinian people.

Syria doubtful on ceasefire  
Syria, which has 30,000 peacekeeping troops in Lebanon, voiced doubt today that the ceasefire would last.

PLO criticises PFLP-GC  
The statement, reported by the Palestine news agency Wafa, said the decision to call a ceasefire had been taken by the PLO executive committee and military commanders of the commands and their Lebanese leftist allies.

Israel hopes for U.S. pact  
Meanwhile in occupied Jerusalem, Israeli officials expressed hope today that Friday's ceasefire in Lebanon ending two weeks of hostilities would help ease strained relations with the United States.

Belize to gain independence September '81  
LONDON, July 26 (R) — Belize, Britain's last American mainland colony, will gain full independence on Sept. 21 this year, the Foreign Office announced today.

'Steering difficulty' forced Boeing 707 to land in Cairo, Iran radio reports defection  
LONDON, July 26 (R) — Iranian state radio reported tonight the defection of an air force pilot whose plane landed in Egypt last week. The Tehran broadcast, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said the Boeing 707's flight to Cairo was the result of "steering difficulty" which prevented the plane from turning back to Tehran.

Iran executes 2 as Israeli spies  
LONDON, July 26 (R) — Two Iranians convicted by an Islamic revolutionary court of spying for Israel were executed today, Iranian state radio said.

Sinai force chief discusses plans with Kamal Hassan Ali  
ALEXANDRIA, July 26 (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali today discussed with the U.S. director-general of the Sinai multi-national patrol force, Leamon R. Hunt, details of his force.

## Zarqa station gets thermal unit

AMMAN, July 26 (J.T.) — The 66 megawatts thermal unit of the Al Hussein Power Station in Zarqa inaugurated today at a ceremony attended by the Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour, the Japanese Ambassador, Ijya Okada, and the Japanese company told the Jordan Times. The unit, with three steam turbines, is one of three units being constructed by the Japanese firm Hitachi and Co. Ltd. at the cost of 30 million, a spokesman for the Japanese company told the Jordan Times. He said that the project would be completed by April 1982 and will increase the Al Hussein Power Station's capacity by 66 megawatts. The station's director, Mr. Abdul Rahman Ismail, said that the project aims at meeting the growing demand for electricity in the country and its cost will be covered by loans from Arab countries, the World Bank and local sources. The unit inaugurated today will operate on an experimental basis for two weeks after which it will be connected to the national grid, he said. After the inauguration ceremony, the minister and his party toured the various sections of the station and were briefed on their function.



Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour (third from left) inspects components of the fourth thermal unit added Sunday to Al Hussein Thermal Power Station in Zarqa. Also seen (in dark) is the Japanese ambassador to Jordan. (Petra photo)

## Mineral water prices fixed

AMMAN, July 26 (Petra) — A crate of twelve 1.5-litre bottles of mineral water will from now on have a wholesale price of JD 1.350 and retail price of JD 1.560, according to a defence order issued today by the Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayyoub. A 1.5 litre bottle will cost 130 fils up from 125 fils. The order will go into effect immediately. A ministry spokesman commenting on the defence order said that the price of bottled mineral water has been rising at random following the cholera outbreak in Jordan. The order was issued to fix the price and prevent any profiteering, he said.

## Raja'i's phenomenal growth

As a teenager he enlisted in the Shah's imperial air force and served for five years before resuming studies that were to enable him to become a teacher of mathematics in Gazvin and Tehran. Two decades ago he joined the Freedom Movement, the liberal coalition whose leader Mr. Mehdi Bazargan was to form Iran's first post-revolutionary government in 1979. In 1965, the year Iran's present rulers date as the start of the revolution that was to topple the Shah, Mr. Raja'i was arrested for distributing political pamphlets and jailed. Later he joined the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq (people's crusaders), the Marxist-Islamic underground guerrilla group now identified as the government's chief adversary. Again he was arrested for clandestine political activity and jailed, and during several years incarceration was tortured by the Shah's secret police Savak. He was released from prison shortly before the revolution.

## From teaching maths to dictating policies

Mr. Raja'i was not Dr. Bani-Sadr's first choice to be prime minister of Iran. The president's original nominee, deputy interior minister and police chief, Mr. Mustafa Mir Salim, ran into parliamentary opposition and was withdrawn. The former president openly expressed reservations about the fitness of Mr. Raja'i to be prime minister. But he was obliged by force of Mr. Raja'i's support in the IRP-dominated Majlis (parliament) to accept him as a compromise choice. The two men rapidly became political enemies in a battle of wills that was to end in Dr. Bani-Sadr's impeachment by parliament and his dismissal from the presidency by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, still the supreme authority in Iran. Dr. Bani-Sadr thereupon disappeared from public view to become a fugitive hunted high and low by the revolutionary authorities. Mr. Raja'i represented a Tehran constituency in the Majlis. He is married with two daughters and a son, all teenagers.

## Traffic violators can pay minimum fine on the spot

AMMAN, July 26 (J.T.) — Traffic police and highway patrols will start as of tomorrow, Monday, to implement a new law under which they collect fines on the spot from traffic violators, a Public Security Directorate source announced today. According to the new procedure, traffic violators will be able to pay the minimum fine immediately to a traffic police officer stationed in the area of the violation against a receipt. In the event the motorist fails to pay immediately, his licence will not be withdrawn for 10 days, during which he or she will have to pay the minimum fine at one of the Traffic Department's centres. The driver can, however, continue to drive during the 10-day period as long as he or she is carrying the order to pay the fine. When it is paid the violator can retrieve the licence. In case the violator fails to pay the fine within 10 days, he or she will be referred to court and pay the maximum fine.



مكذات الأمل



...and qatayef fillings are crushed...



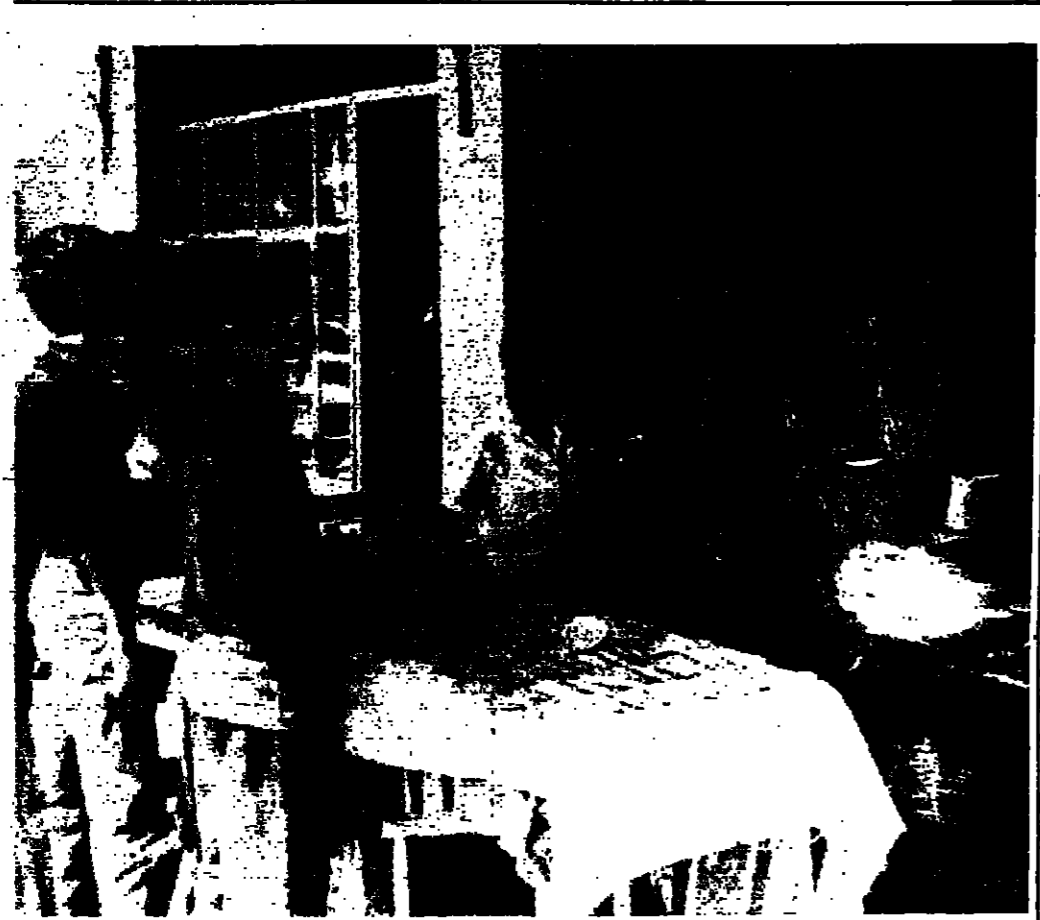
...or cheese spooned in.



The pancake is folded over...



...and dipped in syrup.



pancakes can also be bought unstuffed

# The food of Ramadan

While Ramadan has its own distinctive food such as *qatayef*, *awwama* and *qamar al din* it also has its own drinks such as *sous* and *tamer hindi* but this year the drinks have disappeared from the market. **Mohammad Ayish** discusses the trade of Ramadan specialities in Jordan.

AMMAN — Long lines of semi-exhausted people waiting for their turn to buy the Ramadan *qatayef* pastry are a frequent sight during the fasting month. The making and eating of *qatayef*, an inseparable part of the Ramadan tradition, is also a source of good money for many Jordanian restaurants and refreshment stores who cannot open in the daytime during Ramadan.

"We are not allowed to sell soft drinks in Ramadan, and instead of sitting at home doing nothing for a whole month, we have worked in the *qatayef* business," one soft-drink merchant in downtown Amman said. He added that he makes *qatayef* in Ramadan not only because he has no other work during the month, but because he finds some novelty in the job of frying and stuffing the Ramadan "pancakes".

The "pancake" is made of ordinary flour with the addition of yeast and other additives, all stirred together in a basin according to certain proportions. The batter is then ladled onto the grill just like any other pancake. But as one side of the pancake is well-fried on the skillet, the other side is left as it is; the piece is not turned over.

The Ramadan pancake is stuffed with crushed almonds, coconut or a special kind of cheese. The stuffed pieces will then be either fried in oil or roasted in the oven before they are ready to eat. The next step can be to immerse the pancakes in sweet syrup; but some people prefer their *qatayef* without the sweet taste.

"The *qatayef* business has been associated with the fasting month, and even if our restaurant were to be open during Ramadan, we would have made the pancakes," one restaurant owner said. He added that in his experience, *qatayef* is appreciated as a dessert during Ramadan not only by Muslim fasters, but by non-Muslims as well.

Many of those who patronise my place are not necessarily Muslims; but they buy *qatayef* because that Ramadan pancake is very popular among them," he said.

Another common Ramadan food item is *qamar al din*, which is processed dried fruit. *Qamar al din* can be made of apples, almonds, grapes and other fruit. It is sometimes crumbled into water, to be drunk as a liquid. But some people eat *qamar al din* dry, chewing it like gum.

*Awwama* is another important Ramadan dessert, made usually at home. Like *qatayef*, *awwama* is made of flour, and is fired in oil in the form of small balls. The balls are then submerged in sugar water before being eaten.

A more traditional Ramadan food is palm dates. According to Muslim tradition, dates are the "most blessed" type of food to start with when breaking one's fast. The prophet Mohammad is said to have broken his fast by eating two or three dates and drinking water — then he would pray, and eat what food he needed.

## The meaning and practice of RAMADAN

a Jordan Times series

While Ramadan has its own distinctive foods, it also has its own drinks. *Sous* and *tamer hindi* are among the most popular. These two beverages are either made at home, or sold by vendors shortly before sunset. This year, however, these drinks have disappeared from the market, because they were believed to have contributed to the current outbreak of cholera in the country.

Besides desserts and drinks, Ramadan has its special daily banquet: the *iftar*, generally never required by tradition to invite his counterparts in the same village once in the fasting month to a group banquet. In that case it may happen that the head of a household will have the chance to eat at his own home only once during the month — when he hosts the banquet for the others.



An iftar breakfast can be a sumptuous banquet

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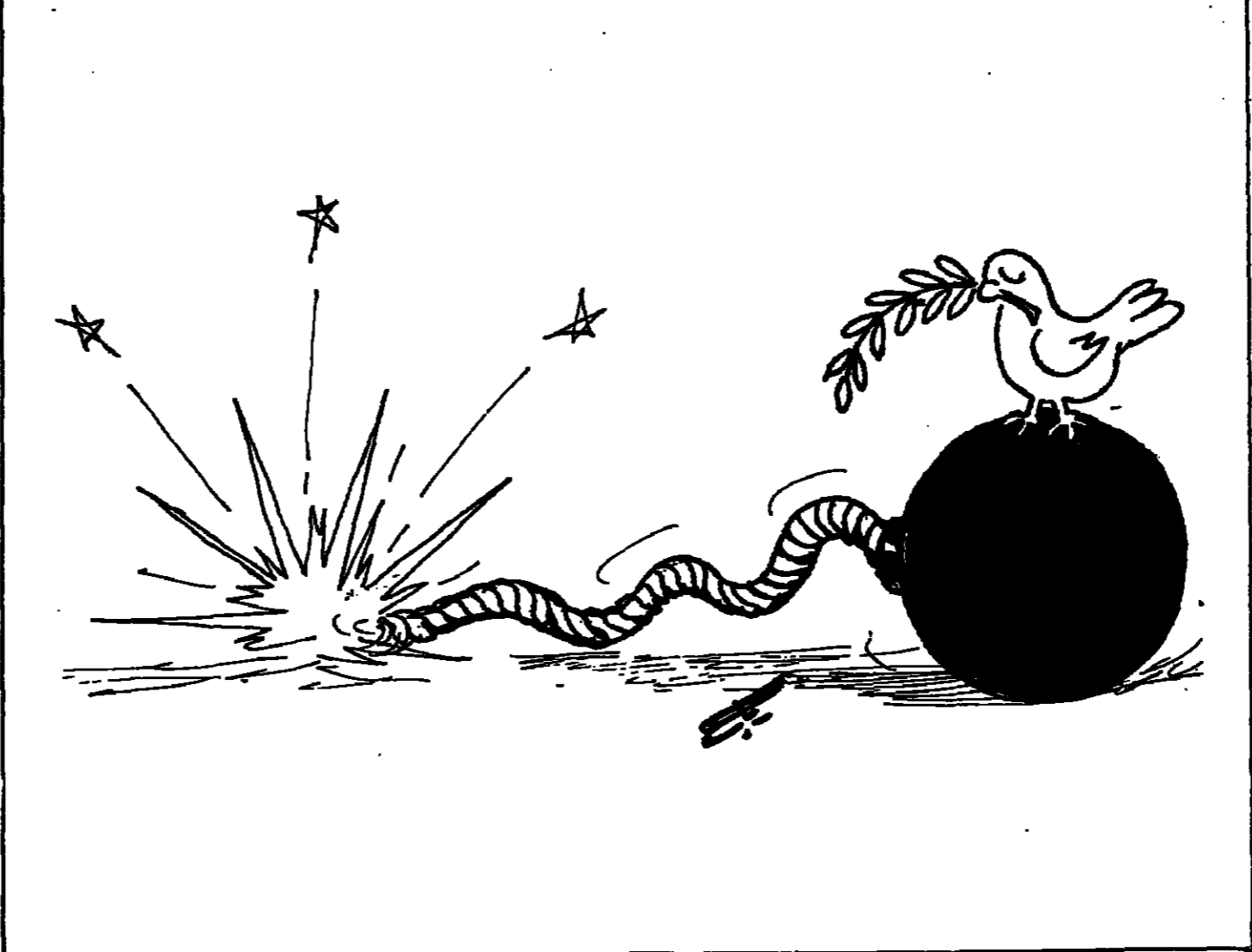
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# DE FACTONOMICS

## A population policy for Jordan (Part 3)

By T.A. Jaber

THE MOST IMPORTANT and debatable issue in a population policy for Jordan, or for any other country, is population growth: is it excessive, reasonable or low? This should not imply that other demographic factors are not significant. However, today's article will concentrate on population growth, while other factors shall be taken up next week. It is pertinent at this point to say that all demographic factors affect each other and interact with the social, economic and political characteristics of a given society. Thus, singling out population growth does not necessarily mean that it is the independent demographic factor in a population policy.

To the best of my knowledge, the question of population growth has not been directly addressed in our development planning literature. Perhaps, it has been taken as a "given". However, in 1978 a study sponsored by the United States perennated Agency for International Development (USAID) three scenarios based on projecting population growth in Jordan until the year 2025. Assuming three levels of fertility rates, the size of population may reach, as a highest estimate, 13.5 million by 2025.

The study moved to assess population impact on water, the labour force, food, education and other needs. Naturally, the result came out that the lower the population growth is the more relieved would be the Jordanian society. The implicit message of the study is clearly to lower the population growth in Jordan. May I differ with this message and advance my conclusion before you by explicitly calling for a larger population size and thus a higher population increase in Jordan. My position does not emanate from subjective impressions nor does it come as a reaction to the above-mentioned study. After all, that study was based on a Malthusian static approach which was academically discredited as early as the last century. Favouring higher population growth is based on the following factual arguments. 1. Jordan is an underpopulated country. Its present population does not exceed 2.5 million persons. Only 11 per cent of the country is populated. Population density is only 24 inhabitants per square kilometre. In a dynamic analysis, the small size of population may become a constraint on development rather than an apparent blessing. A small population tends to limit the

### Why the optimism?

THE TWO weeks of warfare in Lebanon between Israel and the forces of the Palestinian resistance have left over 400 people dead and many more hundreds wounded, most of them Arabs subjected to massive Israeli bombardment. There is great optimism in Washington, we are told, about the chances of using the current ceasefire to move ahead and tackle the larger issue of a permanent Arab-Israeli peace accord. But is that optimism justified? We do not think so.

There is still no indication whatsoever that Israel and the United States are prepared to deal forcefully and honestly with the basic underlying conflict that pits Israeli and Palestinian nationalism against one another in the same piece of land. We maintain, even in the face of the recent savagery, that the elements of a just and permanent peace in Palestine are there to be pieced together by a truly impartial and fair third part mediator. But such a peace accord requires a drastic about-face by Israel and its American backers. These two parties must accept the facts that the rest of the world has accepted: that the Palestinian people have to exercise their right of national self-determination, alongside the state of Israel, and that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is the only party that can ultimately negotiate in the name of the Palestinian people. The process of Palestinian self-determination that was kindled by the Arab Revolt during World War I, and subsequently sidetracked and suspended by the events that took place in Palestine during and after the British mandate years, has to be revived in a form that is acceptable to the Palestinians. That issue is not incompatible with Israeli statehood. But it is incompatible with current American and Israeli policy.

## Impressions of America

By Nabil Sawalha

I HAD NEVER really realised the meaning of "jet-lag" until I flew to the United States. It was a weird feeling, as if an out-of-tune musical instrument was playing — every thing is there, yet nothing is right.

Landing in New York for my connecting flight to Boston was an anticlimax. The air was humid and hot, and the airport was dotted with airlines, each with its own terminals. Yet, the huge airport seemed to lack the grandeur of major European gateways. Boston airport was also hot and humid, but having been met by friends made it nicer. After leaving the airport, most of the pre-conceived impressions about America — its crime rate, race riots... etc — started to crumble. My friends and their neighbours do not have keys to their outside doors, they never lock their cars and they leave their children's bicycles outside all night. More than that was the absence of walls or fences around the houses. Kids jump from one garden to the other without inhibition: they all play with one another's toys and I don't remember hearing kids scream or see them break windows. They all looked relaxed and happy.

After 6 p.m., when all the husbands and wives had returned home from work, the neighbourhood reminded me of our village life in Madaba: Everybody got his charcoal grill out and all were exchanging jokes, steaks and, of course, hot dogs. Am I exaggerating? Actually, the atmosphere was more than that: People never hesitated to wish you good morning or good evening, whenever they caught your eye and they showed great interest in striking up a conversation, if they sensed that you

were willing to reciprocate. Talking about conversation, I have found that Americans are willing to listen to the Arab point of view, and even accept it. They seem to feel that they have been listening to one side of the story and their sense of fairness, as well as their democratic system, tells them to hear out both sides. With the few people that I met, I was able to turn the table completely in favour of the Arabs simply by telling them the truth about what was happening in Palestine. I also met Americans who are working for the Arab cause. But, when I enquired about the involvement of the Palestinians themselves, I was told that some were lending a 'helping hand,' but, strangely enough, when we need them most, they tend to busy themselves in one thing or the other. However, we are doing it because we believe in a just cause, so we go on."

FLYING FROM Boston to Washington was not pleasant: we met with some of the worst turbulence I have ever experienced and the plane tossed and shook like a leaf. I hated it, but it was a relief to touch the ground. Later on television, they kept giving tornado warnings. I was met at the airport by a former diplomat, who gave me a mini-tour of the spacious, clean and green capital, although its streets were like Amman's in winter — bumpy. They say the city is broke, but that is a joke — if they sell the contents of a small sections of one of the capital's museums, they can build another city. Anyway, here we start to hear statement like: "Lock your door!", "Don't carry cash!", "Don't walk in an alley alone!"

This, of course, has left a feeling with a professional finish. I was especially impressed with a theatre that is dedicated to encourage new playwrights, whose best works are performed. It is exactly the kind of thing our theatres should be doing, as there can be no theatre without good writers.

Again through discussions with friends or people at the State Department, I felt a willingness to help our cause, but how can friends help us when we are so fragmented, even here in Washington. The same worn-out ideologies that have plagued some Arab countries are being peddled here at the expense of the real issue: cheap pettiness that would destroy any cause governs the thinking of some of the minds, implanting suspicion towards anybody they encounter.

BACK TO CULTURAL matters, I found the emphasis among artists working with adults and children is on strengthening their powers of creativity, more than wanting to just give detached performances. In that, I found that our minds met and I made instant good friends who were very helpful and volunteered to extend any help possible. There is no doubt that while politics separates people, art unifies them. A human with a strong healthy creative mind can be more effective than many armies put together or a creative soldier can successfully lead a small group against bigger and better armies. If we in Jordan work on developing the creativity powers of our people, we then can look forward towards a surer and happier future. But while we go on turning out boring and dull replicas of our educational systems we shall be plagued with all aspects of negativness.

ONLY IN THE Jordanian press office here did I see people with a genuine wish to rise above the pettiness and work for the Arabs' just cause. It is sad because, with people like Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin in power, the United States is ready and ripe to adopt a new line, if our friends who believe that Israel is becoming a terrorist mouster were given our genuine support. Without such support, these friends cannot stand up to the ever-ready and united Zionist lobby, which uses television, radio, money, terror, the press, or anything to suppress any criticism of Israel.

IF LONDON is the city of theatre, Washington is the city of impressive museums. The treasures of the capital's museums are so entertainingly arranged that a visit to a museum is a family affair and the children enjoy them tremendously. In the National Air and Space Museum, a piece of granite (four billion years old) is becoming a Mecca, where people stand in long lines awaiting the chance to touch the moon rock, and although I found it silly, I felt compelled to do the same, as if I was in a religious ritual. The theatre here has "underdog" feeling compared with New York, so performances here have the freshness and energy of amateurs, who put in their work such enthusiasm that one tends to believe that they are fighting for a sacred cause.

### ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'Y: The indicators that have followed the ceasefire in Lebanon show that the Palestinian-Israeli war is likely to be rekindled soon, in light of the statements made by Haig, Eitan and Shamir.

The U.S. secretary of state described the ceasefire as a return to the situation that had existed in Lebanon before the recent Palestinian-Israeli war. This interpretation implies that Israel's intervention in Lebanon is a matter which is taken for granted, and this cannot be accepted by the Palestinians or the Arabs. Thus the U.S. secretary of state has missed the ceasefire opportunity and has not made any remarks suggesting that this opportunity might be utilised as a springboard to rectify the U.S. position and to recognise the right of the PLO to participate in any process to establish just and comprehensive peace in the area. Despite the fact that the latest Palestinian-Israeli war has proven beyond any doubt that the PLO is a major and important party which cannot be ignored when it comes to establishing real peace in the area.

Eitan, on the other hand threatened the Palestinians with a new phase of the war, which, he said, will be crueler than the previous phase. At the same time, he said that Israel would not allow the Palestinian commandos even to reorganise their ranks during the ceasefire period.

Shamir, the foreign minister of Israel, expressed his conviction that the ceasefire would not last. In light of these clear indicators, it is becoming certain for the Arabs that they are heading for a new phase of confrontation with the Israeli challenge, which aims at creating a new fait accompli in the area, allowing Israel to exercise wider domination than ever before. This means that the Arabs should make the necessary measures to implement the joint strategy agreed upon in the Amman summit as well as the decisions taken at the joint Arab defence council recently held in Tunis. Furthermore, the Arab oil-producing countries should be reminded that brandishing the weapons of oil and Arab funds is indispensable and should not be ignored. They should understand that failure to utilise this weapon cannot be tolerated by the Arab masses or forgiven by history.

Whether the ceasefire agreement is destined to last days or weeks, the next confrontation with Israel is certainly coming, because Israel's ambitions and challenges cannot stop at a certain point.

AL DUSTOUR: In his reply to the statement by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig announcing that after the ceasefire, the United States will work towards restoring the situation in southern Lebanon to what it had been before the outbreak of the recent fighting, Information Minister Adnan Abu Odeh said this would mean the return to the series of tragedies which Lebanon had been living through for the last seven years.

There are several facts which have emerged from the two-week war which took place in southern Lebanon. First of these facts is that the American weapons used by Israel could not serve as a guard protecting American interests in the area. The contrary is true. American interests in the area have never become more threatened than they are now. The second fact is that the dispute which began between the Palestinians and the Zionists some one third of a century ago is still going on, and Zionist propaganda cannot conceal it, nor can U.S. support of Israel undermine the Palestinian cause.

The United States, which is eager to preserve the security of Israel, should also be eager to preserve the security of the Arabs and the Palestinians' existence. But if the U.S. secretary of state views the ceasefire agreement between the Palestinians and Israel in southern Lebanon as an opportunity to concoct a new plot and to turn Lebanon again, we would like to assure him that the first hands to be burned are the hands of those who will start the fire.

## OAU eases Nigeria-Cameroon tension

By Stephen Powell

ABIDJAN — Intensive diplomatic efforts by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) appear to have taken some of the heat out of border tension between Nigeria and Cameroon, according to Western diplomatic sources.

OAU Secretary-General Edem Kodjo has spent a week shuttling between Lagos and Yaounde, discussing the dispute with presidents Shehu Shagari of Nigeria and Ahmadou Ahidjo of Cameroon. The row between the two neighbours stems from a border clash on May 16 in which five Nigerian soldiers were killed, with no apparent loss of life on the Cameroonian side.

Tension reached such a pitch last week that President Ahidjo, in a rare front-page interview in Cameroon's official newspaper *Cameroon Tribune*, formally denied that hostilities had broken out between the two countries.

Some residents feared an imminent Nigerian attack. The Western diplomatic sources said the United States, Britain and France all appealed to Lagos for restraint.

Mr. Kodjo has dropped other African concerns such as the Western Sahara and Chad to give his full attention to the Nigeria-Cameroon dispute. He has been accompanied by Mr. Robert Ouko, foreign minister of Kenya, which currently has the OAU chairmanship.

The border dispute between the two countries goes back many years and appears to be connected with oil reserves in the border region and offshore. In 1975 former Nigerian leader Gen. Yakubu Gowon and President Ahidjo met in the North Cameroon town of Garoua to fix the border. A few months later Gen. Gowon was overthrown and his successors refused to accept the border agreement. The part which Nigeria wants to renegotiate is in the far south, on land and offshore, where both states have important oil production.

Since the May 16 incident, several attempts have been made to mediate between the two states. The immediate issue is not so much the line of the border as Nigeria's demand for formal apologies and reparations from Cameroon because of the clash. "As far as we are concerned, those are the things that interest us," a spokesman for President Shagari told Reuters in Lagos. President Shagari has called Cameroon's attitude "uncooperative."

The first attempt at mediation came at a summit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in May. President Shagari rejected a suggestion from Guinea that ECOWAS mediate on the ground that Cameroon was not a member of the community. In June, Niger President Seyni Kountche met President Shagari in the Nigerian town of Ilorin and also held separate talks with Mr. Ahidjo in Cameroon. At the end of the trip, President Kountche had no substantial progress to report.

Cameroon suggested early in the day that a joint commission of the two countries be set up to look into the border clash, but Nigeria turned this down saying it was a matter for the OAU.

However, President Shagari boycotted the OAU summit in Nairobi in late June over his handling of the row. The ministry of external affairs said the OAU had taken no apparent action to intervene.

The OAU is now giving the dispute its full attention and, after a period of real tension and uncertainty on the issue, is creating a ministerial commission to look into it.

In mid-June, according to diplomatic sources in Cameroon, two unidentified fighters buzzed the Cameroonian town of Victoria, where President Ahidjo recently opened the country's first oil refinery.

Western diplomatic sources said the Cameroonian authorities contacted diplomatic missions and asked whoever was responsible for the violation of Cameroon's air space to stop. By early July there were widespread rumours of an imminent attack on Cameroon.

Although Nigeria, with its population of about 80 million, militarily much stronger than Cameroon, Cameroon has a defence pact with France. Western diplomats view this as a deterrent against Nigerian attack.

Official sources in Paris said that under an arms contract Cameroon signed late last year, six Alpha jets, training and big attack aircraft, were being delivered to the Yaounde government. The sources added that the delivery of spare parts for the planes is being speeded up, apparently because of the border tension. France is Cameroon's main arms supplier.

Many political observers have linked the tension with turmoil in Nigeria's domestic politics. Nigeria has long lived with a high level of violence apparently endemic in its society, but there are signs of violence spilling into the country's party politics. Following recent political riots in the northern city of Kano, sparked by a row between the local governor and the influential Amir, President Shagari said: "The nation is on trial. The new democratic way of life which we have chosen for ourselves is on trial."

Political sources said President Shagari's internal problems, which now include the breakdown of a coalition agreement, have made difficult for him to take a soft line in the dispute with Cameroon.



# EEC debates spending priorities

News Analysis  
By Philip Stephens

BRUSSELS, July 26 (R) — Officials and diplomats at European Common Market headquarters anticipate a major clash over the community's spending priorities.

The battle will be fought on two fronts—between member states and the directly-elected European Parliament, and among the governments themselves as they begin negotiations on a major overhaul of the EEC budget.

EEC leaders have consistently called for a greater role for the community in pulling Europe out of recession and cutting the mounting debt queues.

But finance ministers from the 10 decided in Brussels Friday that, in 1982 at least, they cannot afford the ambitious economic and social programmes espoused by the European Parliament and the EEC commission.

They agreed on a 1982 draft budget which imposes stringent limits on regional, industrial and social policies.

The EEC commission promptly dismissed the draft, with Social Affairs Commissioner Ivor Richard terming it "a slap in the face for the nine million unemployed in the community."

Budget Commissioner Christopher Tugendhat called on member states to "put their money where their mouths are," in honouring the "fine words" of the past.

Belgium's Ernest Glinne, leader of the socialist group in the parliament, said the group was determined to restore the cut programmes and curb agricultural spending.

The parliament is keenly aware that finance is the one area in which it has real political muscle as it must give final approval to the annual budget.

It has used the power vigorously in recent years, often provoking legal battles with the member states. The European parliamentarians have more often than not won the day in boosting social and regional spending.

But this year's inevitable fight between parliament and governments is complicated by efforts to overhaul the budget, two-thirds of which goes on subsidies and assistance to the community's farmers.

While the parliament wants a shift from farm spending to begin in the 1982 budget, the member states are anxious not to preempt their own negotiations on the subject, which will culminate in a heads of government meeting in London in November.

Significantly, farm spending escaped the ministers' axe at Friday's meeting, although Britain and West Germany made a determined effort at pruning.

By making their cuts in social and regional spending, the ministers in effect postponed any decision on how much of the budget the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will swallow in future years.

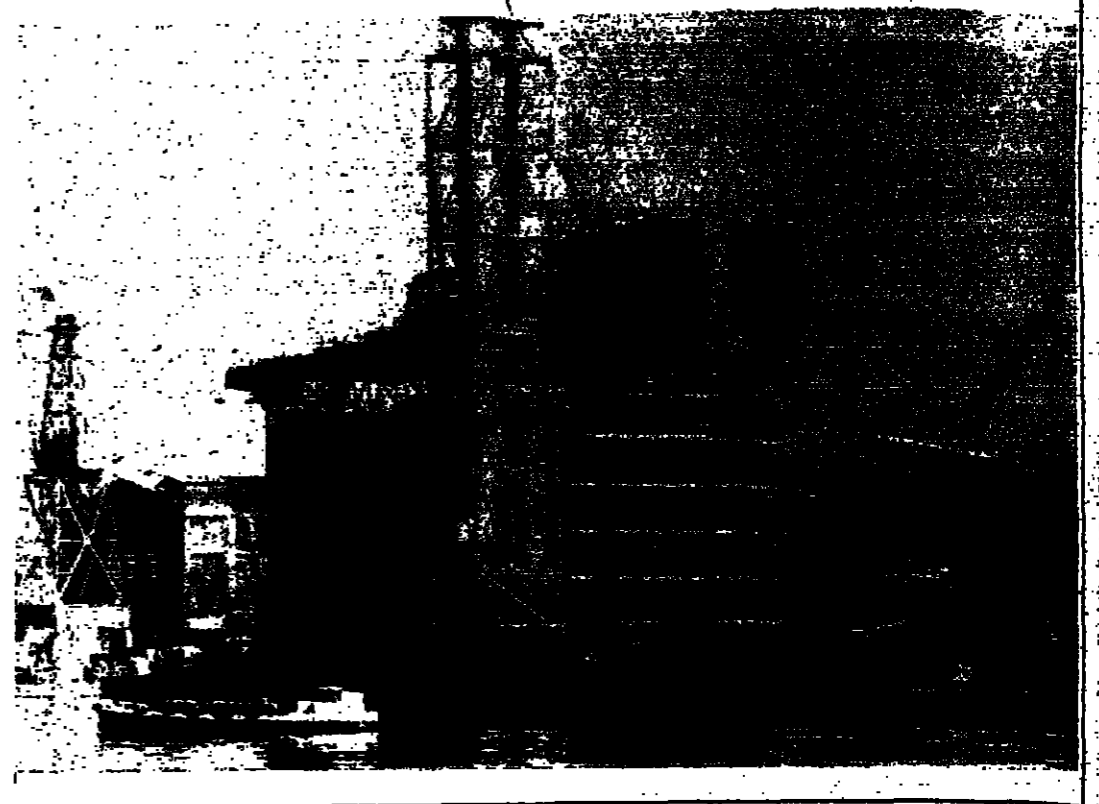
The British Finance Secretary to the Treasury, Nigel Lawson, in the chair at the budget council, summed up the mood of the gathering.

Austerity at home could not be combined with sharp rises in community funding, he said.

Bonn officials, who led the assault on the commission's proposed budget of \$24.6 billion, were more vociferous.

# The world's largest offshore hotel

HAMBURG (DaD) — This five-storey structure billed as the world's largest offshore hotel was an unusual sight as it sailed out of Hamburg harbour early one morning. Its salient feature is an exhaust gas tower 45 metres tall. It is also the first oil rig unit of its kind to be built as a ship, with its heliport fitted to an accommodation module. Fulmar A is first to be fitted to its North Sea oil platform with suspension, so the men will notice next to nothing of the noise and vibration of work on the rig. It even boasts a ladies' toilet, another innovation in what has so far been very much a man's world!



# U.S. plans to use less oil to generate electricity

By Nicholas Moore

HARTFORD, Connecticut — One way for the United States and other major industrialised powers to reduce their oil imports is to use less oil to generate electricity.

And executives at Hartford-based Northeast Utilities (NU), a group of four New England electric utilities (electricity supply companies), reckon they have conceived a strategy that could offer a textbook case study of how that can be done, using nuclear power, coal and a vigorous energy-saving drive.

Northeast's President, William B. Ellis, told Reuters in an interview that Northeast hoped to slash its oil use by 1987 from 18 million barrels a year to just above three million.

That would save the equivalent of three days' current U.S. total oil imports — and throughout the United States, there are more than

250 investor-owned and public utilities, many of which also burn oil.

Mr. Ellis acknowledged that not all those are necessarily as well-placed to switch out of oil as Northeast, and that Northeast sees possible financial and regulatory obstacles to its plans.

But any major new price increase by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) would be likely to stimulate bigger investment by utilities in methods to cut down on using fuel oil.

Saudi Oil Minister Ahmed Zaki Yamani said earlier this year that one reason for the Saudis' wanting to stabilise OPEC pricing was that new oil price "shocks" might provoke the West into a transition away from oil too fast for OPEC's own good.

U.S. crude imports are already down around 30 per cent on peak levels of some 18 months ago. Mr. Ellis said the objection to burning oil at Northeast was its cost and worries about secured supplies.

Northeast's switch to coal demonstrates a close link between oil pricing and grassroots efforts to do without OPEC.

"After the 1973-74 rise in oil prices, the alternatives were nuclear and oil", Mr. Ellis said. "After the 1979 price moves, we knew that coal was it."

Northeast was fortunate in having eight power stations which originally had been designed to burn coal before being revamped to take oil. Reconversion offers no major engineering challenge.

Four of the plants are in Massachusetts where state environmental and rate regulatory agencies are anxious to encourage coal use.

Northeast will be able to burn low-sulphur coal in line with clean air regulations without having to install desulphurisation equipment that could have tripled costs.

In Massachusetts it will also be able to employ an innovative method of financing coal conversion, expected to cost \$35 million at one of the plants. It is permitted to base customer rates on the cost of oil even when coal is fed into the system.

Two-thirds of the saving realised by using coal would go to the company to pay for conversion and one-third would go to the customer in the form of lower rates.

Northeast executives say negotiations with regulatory officials in Connecticut, where the other four plants to be converted are located, will be crucial.

The total oil-saving plans envisage a two billion dollar construction programme over six years which Northeast's annual report said was "too burdensome given the company's financial condition".

Northeast, as well as any other U.S. utilities, is caught between rising fuel and capital costs and regulatory agencies seeking to hold down energy prices for the consumer.

It has cancelled one proposed nuclear plant and finds it necessary to try to sell off some of its 65 per cent share in its 700-megawatt Millstone-III unit, due to go into operation in 1986.

If financial and environmental issues are solved, Northeast's plan hinges on being able to hold the growth in electricity demand below 1.5 per cent a year which it will try to do with a vigorous "save it" campaign.

It is providing energy audits for homes and medium-scale commercial enterprises to show consumers where modifications will

limit heat loss. These are backed by night-time overflights by a plane taking infrared photographs that show where buildings are leaking warmth.

"Audits have taken off like a house afire", Mr. Ellis said.

Homeowners are also offered preferential rates if they will fit radio-controlled switches to their water heaters, so that Northeast computers can decide when it will be most economic to heat water, issuing on-off instructions by radio transmitter.

Remote, radio-controlled switching is an energy-saving technology that promises to catch on across the United States.

Roger Medlin, product planning manager with the metre division of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, which has worked with Northeast, said "there are a lot of one-way radio-control systems installed around the country."

He added: "Utilities are now looking for two-way systems. Two-way systems are about to become commercial."

Such systems, at only a modest increase in cost, will enable information to be radioed back from switch points in consumer homes and commercial premises. A utility computer will receive information on load levels, meter readings that do away with house-to-house checks and word on whether any customers are tampering with their radio-controlled on-off switches.

"With one-way all you can do is send out a signal and hope you get all your customers. It is easy to draw up economic justification for two-way," Mr. Medlin said, adding he agreed that any new oil price rise would spur investment in these and other energy-saving technologies.

Reuter

# IWC predicts ban on whale-hunting

By Alison Maitland

ENGLAND — Conservationists have emerged from this year's meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) predicting a ban on all commercial whale-hunting within the next few years.

Their confidence was based on an IWC decision they believed amounted to a ban on hunting the sperm whale, the largest of the toothed whales. It is caught for its meat and its oil, used in leather tanning and as an industrial lubricant, and last year's catch quota was 1,320.

Delegates agreed by 25 votes against Japan's one to end sperm whaling in the North Atlantic and Antarctic after this season and to fix the Japanese quota in the North Pacific at a special meeting next year.

Conservationists are certain Japan will not be able to muster the 75 per cent support required under IWC rules to set the new quota. Until a quota is set, the IWC has said Japan may not catch any more sperm whales.

The commission also resolved to phase out the cold grenade (non-explosive) harpoon which conservationists said was unacceptably cruel because it took longer to kill than other methods. It is used only on the minke whale which is so small that explosive methods blow it to pieces, leaving little meat.

Sir Peter Scott, chairman of the world wildlife fund and a veteran anti-whaling campaigner, told Reuters: "one fights shy of euphoria

but I think the result is extremely good. "We've made a huge move in favour of conservation. I would very much doubt if there will be any commercial whaling in five years' time."

But the Japanese, the most outspoken of the nine commercial whaling nations, are far from agreeing even that they have lost their sperm whale catch.

Throughout the week-long meeting, their delegation said the most conservative estimate of the number of exploitable sperm whales was 210,000 and, since their catch of 890 this year was just 0.4 per cent of that, it could do little harm.

Mr. Kunio Yonezawa, head of the delegation, said yesterday: "there should be reason for me to believe that when there's scientific evidence other parties would be willing to support it. If they don't, I think that's the demise of the commission, at least in its spirit."

Earlier last week the Japanese said they would feel no moral or legal obligation to abide by a ban on all commercial whaling because they said it would contravene the objectives of the 1946 convention which provides for both exploitation and preservation of whales.

Observers said that if Japan ignored a ban and other whaling nations followed, it would raise the spectre of an IWC consisting only of non-whaling nations, powerless to enforce any bans or quotas.

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